

Miscellaneous Editorial Paragraphs

The hymn, "Nearer, My God to Thee," which before the death of the President was one of the six most popular ones of the English speaking peoples, has for the time at least become the most popular of all.

It is certainly a hopeful sign when Boards of Health agitate legislation against the long skirt. Commissioner Henry Menigs of the board of health of Bayonne, N. J., announced that he would propose legislation against woman's attire. He said, "I mean to introduce at the next meeting of this board an ordinance making it a misdemeanor for a woman to wear a skirt or gown that sweeps the sidewalks. There is hardly a greater cause of contagion than these dresses." Speaking of the long skirt the Youth's Companion says: "When skirts are allowed to trail,—a preposterous fashion, happily subsiding for the present,—their state at the end of a few blocks beggars the imagination. The unfortunates to whom their care is entrusted should be instructed to clean them in the open air, and preferably upon the roof." We trust the agitation will continue until the long skirt will be a thing of the past.

While there are so many criticisms on newspapers, says an exchange, it is pleasant to note that in many of our great dailies the Saturday issue contains a careful exposition of the Sunday school lesson. This is something to record with pleasure and hail with gladness. To have two or three columns of a city newspaper given up on Saturday—one of the choicest days of the week for city news—to the study of the Sunday school lesson means that Christian sentiment is very much stronger than some are disposed to imagine; and these studies, taken as a whole, represent good writing, careful thinking, honest teaching, and faithful work. Yellow journalism for a time may push itself to the front, and by glaring headlines and startling pictures arouse some little attention, but in the end honest, faithful journalism obtains a place in the public esteem and holds it against everything else.

The Baltimore, Md., City Council has before it an ordinance appropriating \$15,000 for the extirmination of the mosquito in and about that city. Some one remarks that the money applied at this season of the year will probably do more good to the politicians than harm to the mosquitos. At any rate, unless Baltimore is an exception to all other large cities in this country it has something of its own creation within its limits a thousand times more harmful than all the mosquitos that ever troubled its inhabitants. Why not get the saloon out of the way and then fight the mosquitos. It is another case of swallowing a camel and choking at a gnat.

Mr. Roosevelt, the new President, is a personal friend of Rev. Mr. Moerdyke of the Trinity Reformed church, Chicago. Some time during the summer the preacher writing to Mr. Roosevelt, invited him to come and preach for his congregation some Sunday. "I will fill your pulpit the next time

I am in Chicago," was the reply. He arrived in Chicago on Saturday, and the next day accompanied by Colonel J. H. Strong, he drove to Trinity church to keep his promise. The Rev. Moerdyke was in the act of announcing a hymn when the then Vice President and Colonel Strong entered the church. They took front seats. The reading of the hymn was postponed and the preacher stepped down from the pulpit to greet his guests and announced that his regular sermon on "Christian Statesmen" would be postponed and that the Vice President would preach. He did not preach doctrine, but he did deliver a lay sermon on, "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only," that was listened to with the closest attention.

Mrs. Leona Whitmore has applied for a divorce from James Whitmore, alleging that he gets up in the middle of the night to smoke cigarettes. She says that on their wedding night he got up and smoked incessantly between 12 and 2 o'clock. Her health, she claims, has been ruined by the smoke. And yet notwithstanding this fact there are thousands of young girls who walk the streets with young men puffing away at their cigarettes and seem to feel proud of the privilege. The man who on the night of his wedding smokes incessantly for two hours and that in the middle of the night is not worthy of a woman, and the woman who now applies for a divorce should have known of her intended husband's habits before she married him. We doubt not that she tells the truth when she says her health has been ruined by inhaling the poison of the cigarette. It is a pernicious habit and should not be tolerated in a young man by any lady. If the pretty, bright eyed, rosy cheeked young girl does not want to spend a life time with the cigarette and drink fiend she must not run the risk of marrying a drinker or smoker. Refuse the association of such a one and let him know that you have a right to demand the same virtues in him that he demands in you. Stand by that and you will have no cause for regret when it is too late.

President Roosevelt's favorite hymn is "How Firm a Foundation," and Rev. J. M. Shick, pastor of Grace Reformed Church, now known as the "President's Church," had it sung as a part of the morning service a week ago last Sabbath. Mr. Shick preached a strictly Biblical sermon, taking his text from St. Luke 14:3, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" He answered the question in the affirmative, illustrating it with a description of Jesus healing the man with the palsy at a supper in the house of the chief of the Pharisees. There is always an immediate increase in the congregation of a church attended by a new President, and there is no exception in this case. But this little church only seats about 150, and it was already taxed to its full capacity before President Roosevelt announced his intention to worship there, and efforts were being made by the little congregation to raise the money to erect a larger building. Those efforts are being assisted by an appeal from the Board of Missions of the Reformed church of the U. S. to the synods of the church, and there is no doubt of their success. The little congregation is very modest; it only asks for \$30,000 to build a church.